United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, Shimon Peres, calls on Syrian President to meet with Israeli Prime Minister; General Assembly also addressed by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis; Foreign Ministers of Hungary, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius and Jordan; yesterday Assembly was addressed by Jamaica, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon.

+ Secretary-General expresses shock over death of two staff members of the United Nations Children's Fund in Sudan.

+ Chairman of Special Committee against Apartheid welcomes release of 150 political prisoners following meeting between Nelson Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola says great majority of Angola's 4.86 million registered voters cast their votes in "peaceful and orderly" fashion.

+ Opportunities offered by aging populations stressed by Secretary-General on occasion of International Day of Elderly.

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In the General Assembly's debate this morning, Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel, called on the President of Syria to "set aside his reservations" and meet with the Prime Minister of Israel. "We have made clear to the Syrians that the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 contain a territorial dimension, combined with other components of peace and security which must be equally respected", he said.

For generations, he went on, the conflicts in the Middle East had been nurtured by global conflicts -- "by the Cold War and its hot competition" -- and the time was now upon the nations of the region to come to terms with the new realities, and to build a new Middle East of, by and for the people.

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Mr. Peres indicated that with the Jordanians, the solutions were awaiting the parties, and that common problems had to be faced, "including the possible Jordanian connection to Palestinian self-government and beyond".

With the Palestinian people, he went on saying, Israel had suggested an interim self-government arrangement, as conceived in Camp David. This proposal was imperfect in some respects, Mr. Peres said, but it offered the flexibility of an arrangement that would last no more than five years. During that period, Palestinians in the territories would enjoy self-government, and the opportunity to select, through democratic political elections, a Palestinian Administrative Council, enabling the Palestinian people to govern their own lives and to do so democratically.

With respect to Lebanon, Israel neither held territorial claims nor sought to influence the political destiny of that country, he said. "The moment Lebanon finds peace within itself and independence from outside intervention", he said, Lebanon and Israel will live in peace again.

The Israeli Foreign Minister also stressed that the poverty in the Middle East had to do with "the use and misuse of the available and potential resources in the region", and proposed that the essentially economic-oriented multilateral negotiations with his country's Arab neighbours in the fields of economics, arms control, refugees, ecology and water be changed - in order to be held in a coordinated manner, at the ministerial level, on a more frequent basis and with the participation of all States in the region.

Mr. Peres also reaffirmed Israel's position in favor of the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Opening the General Assembly debate this morning, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania, Mohamed Abderrahmane Ould Moïne, said elections and political pluralism in his country had been achieved in a gradual way to avoid sudden shocks and changes. Municipal elections had given the people experience in tolerance and cooperation. In July 1991, his country had voted to accept a new Constitution. It provided for a State of Law and protected individual rights. No political prisoners remained in his country.

Mr. Moïne went on to say that development was the greatest challenge now facing the international community, and dealing with its social aspect was indispensable. The projected world summit on social development was a means to address that issue, he said.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Géza Jeszenszky, said the key issue of stability and security in Central and Eastern Europe was the recognition and promotion of the endeavours of peoples towards self-determination, and of national minorities towards adequate forms of self-government. The endeavours towards self-determination, he said, constituted a first but apparently unavoidable step on their road back to Europe, towards their participation in a new, voluntary integration. However, it was a mistake for anyone to seek to achieve self-determination and

self-government by resurrecting the 19th-century concept of the nation-state, and a crime to advance it by redrawing frontiers by force or through "ethnic cleansing".

The brutality raging almost undisturbed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia was a telling signal that the world had not yet done everything possible to enforce, with all the means at its disposal, the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter.

Mr.Jeszenszky went on to say that public opinion in Hungary followed with deep concern the situation of the Hungarian minority in Serbian Vojvodina and other areas under Serbian control, where a Hungarian community of almost half a million were living in increasing danger and under threat. Serbian policy had not only chased tens of thousands of Hungarians from their ancestral homes, but was now intent on settling several thousand Serbian refugees in territories of Vojvodina and Slavonia inhabited by Hungarians and others, thereby forcibly changing the ethnic composition of whole areas.

Following a national agreement between the Government and all rebel movements - signed in the presence of representatives of all Africa and of representatives from countries around the world, there was a new hope in Mali, said Mohamed Alhousseini Touré, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali. The Government had launched an appeal to the international community to help Mali implement the various programmes to ensure peace and security, a vital condition for development, he said. The Mali of today respected human rights, promoted dialogue and rejected violence as a mode of expression. Neither the problems in the north of the country nor the current economic difficulties could restrain the good will and determination of Mali's people to achieve their country's development, said the Foreign Minister.

While politically, in the 1990s, he said, democracy had been embraced by many African countries, the economic situation there remained critical. Mr. Touré called for the international solidarity to help resolve the problems faced by the countries of the continent. Sufficient resources were needed to correct the imbalances and minimalize the negative effects of the adjustment of the most vulnerable, while permitting the financing of priority development South-South cooperation Programmes. Sub-regional economic integration, could help to overcome the difficulties currently seen in the North-South dialogue, he added.

Addressing the Assembly this morning, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of St. Kitts and Nevis, Kennedy A.Simmonds, recognized that the Caribbean people had to accept the principal responsibility for progress in their development.

Recalling that they had already demonstrated a commitment to reform and diversification by taking bold initiatives involving greater fiscal and economic discipline, he pointed out that they were willing to do more but could not "do the job alone" Significant progress had been made in regional

integration, he said, and the Caribbean community was now poised to take further initiatives to strenghten its functional, economic and political cooperation.

Turning to the environment issue, the Prime Minister explained that St.Kitts and Nevis had signed the Convention on Climate Change because the Island States of the region were more susceptible to the ravages of hurricanes and to the effects of sea-level rise. The importance of the marine environment to the health, welfare and total development ot the Caribbean people could not be over-emphasized, he said.

In his statement to the Assembly this afternoon, Paul Raymond Berenger, Minister of External Affairs of Mauritius, deplored the continued movement of highly dangerous nuclear material on land and on the high seas. His country had noted with grave concern the movement of plutonium and other toxic wastes across the world, he said. The Minister exhorted the countries involved in such trade to stop and heed the concerns voiced by the international community.

Turning to human rights questions, Mr. Berenger said it was a sad reflection on humanity that for months the world had remained impassive to the Somali human rights disaster. Promotion of human rights should remain high among the priorities of the internaticnal community, he said. He expressed Mauritius' full support for the idea that the General Assembly or the Security Council should be able to entrust the Secretary-General to mount fact-finding missions to territories where there were serious human rights abuses, either at the request of the Government or the appropriate organ of the United Nations.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, Kamel Abu Jaber, told the Assembly that thanks to its policy of avoiding extremism and maintaining a middle and moderate course, Jordan had become an oasis of stability in a turbulent region where emotionalism, extremism, and ideological as well as physical violence were still dominant.

Jordan believed that peace was "an objective that our generation ought to pursue". The Palestinian question was a core concern to Jordan since it had "lived the tragedy of the Palestinian people" from the beginning, suffering most of its economic, social and political consequences with limited resources and means.

The Jordanian Minister noted that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question had taken a positive turn, beginning with the Madrid Peace talks. However, he pointed out that "while the parties to the conflict were negotiating on the basis of international legality, Israel had continued its illegal practices", building new settlements and solidifying the existing ones. The Israeli Government's seemingly positive actions with regard to its policies in the occupied territories were inadequate, he said, and he called on Israel to commit itself to the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention by completely calling a halt to the building of all settlements.

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Turning to Iraq, the Foreign Minister said the suffering of the Iraqi people and the threat of dismemberment and instability - which were not intended by the Security Council resolutions - had made it imperative that Iraq be seen in a new light. It was in no one's interest that Iraq be partitioned or that its people continue to suffer, he said. Jordan was complying with Security Council resolutions and was looking forward to putting an end to the consequences of the Gulf crisis by peaceful means.

Pointing out that the right to development also implied the right to a healthy environment, and that Niger, a Sahelian country, was facing an increased desertification, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Niger, Hamidou Hassane Diallo, expressed last night his hope that the current Assembly session would define modalities for negotiation of an international convention on drought and desertification.

Niger, he went on to say, had embarked on the path to pluralistic democracy which respected human rights and guaranteed the exercise of civil rights. The process, he continued, began 11 month ago and was not without inherent difficulties. Asserting that on the eve on 1993, his country would revert to a full-fledged democratic regime, he insisted however that measures had to be taken by the United Nations to foster a new spirit of solidarity and justice among nations.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Ike Omar S.Nwachukwu, informed the Assembly last night that his country, in January 1993, would complete its transition to democracy with the handing-over of power to an elected government.

Turning to the issue of the composition of the permanent membership of the Security Council, he pointed out that the parameters of democracy, size and role within the global system had become relevant criteria for adjucating the issue of representation.

Mr.Nwachukwu drew the Assembly's attention to the fact that Nigeria was the most populous African nation, with the largest economic potential and a proven commitment to the cause of world security, which gave Nigeria the qualification to fulfil Africa's aspiration to be represented in the permanent membership of the Security Council. At the same time, he added, the Secretary-General should ensure that Africans were adequately represented in the upper echelons of the Secretariat.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Percival J. Patterson, called on the Assembly last night to support the creation of a new agenda which would provide the basic conditions for human survival everywhere.

Referring to the Haitian question, the Prime Minister asserted that the international community owed it to the people of Haiti and to itself to continue support for their cause and for a restoration of constitutional rule in that country. The repressive and illegal regime had continued to hold

power, one year after overthrowing the country's democratically elected leader. He urged the Assembly to lend its weight in support of one of its member States and of the legitimate Government and people of Haiti.

Most developing countries had embarked with determination on the difficult task of economic restructuring, which, in the short run, had imposed considerable hardships on all sectors of the population, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, Mr. Patterson said. He called for "a greatly increased flow of public and private financial resources" to alleviate those critical situations, saying that a transfer of relevant technology and a climate of international trade that rejected protectionism were necessary. A fair trading system was also required to encourage the development of regional integration processes among developing countries, to recognize their need for temporary preferential and protective measures and to promote the maximum openness in their economies, he said.

The members of the Economic Community of Central Africa were working towards measures for building confidence, security and development in the region, the Permanent Representative of Cameroon, Pascal Biloa Tang, told the Assembly last night. In conformity with the General Assembly's request, the Secretary-General had announced the creation of a permanent consultative committee on security questions in Central Africa. Last July, he continued, the 11 States of the sub-region had met in Yaoundé, under the auspices of the United Nations, to adopt the committee's programme of action, calling for the creation of a centre to train personnel in peace-keeping, the conclusion of a non-aggression pact and the creation of an inter-State general staff for crisis management.

Cameroon was proceeding on the path to democracy, he said, and was working to build a society that was both more democratic and respectful of human rights. Following elections whose tranparency had been guaranteed by international observers, Cameroon now had a multiparty Parliament and a coalition Government that was responsible to the Parliament. On 11 October, he said, there would be presidential elections.

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Upon receiving information confirming the death of two staff members of the United Nations Children's Fund in the Sudan, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed shock over what he called the "senseless taking of human lives". According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, he said the incident was all the more shocking since the individuals were in the area as a part of the Operation Lifeline Sudan humanitarian relief effort, designed to alleviate the suffering of civilians affected by drought and civil conflict. He extended his deepest sympathy to the families of the victims.

The Secretary-General said in the statement that he considered the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) accountable for the deaths, since the relief staff were last seen in their costody. It was imperative, he said, that the parties involved take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of humanitarian relief workers.

UNICEF staff member, Myiny Maung of Myanmar, and a Norwegian free-lance journalist, Helge Hummelvoll, were killed in southern Sudan while on a mission visiting feeding centers in the Eastern Equatoria region. In addition, the United Nations has learned that the bodies of other members of the mission, a UNICEF staff driver, and a nurse with the non-governemental organization Interaid, had been recovered; however, positive identification had not yet been made.

As a result of the incidents, the Operation Lifeline Sudan personnel have been withdrawn from the area immediately pending assurances from the SPLA on the safety of relief personnel. However, other United Nations operations in southern Sudan are continuing.

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The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), has welcomed the release of 150 political prisoners, immediately following the meeting of 26 September between Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk, and the South African Government's agreement to release the remaining political prisoners by 15 November.

In a statement issued today, Mr. Gambari noted that the continued detention or imprisonment of over 400 persons held for their political beliefs or activities, in spite of agreements reached last year for their release, had been one of the most serious obstacles to the process of peaceful change in South Africa.

The Chairman also felt "encouraged" by the agreement on a number of other issues reached by the two leaders, including those relating to the constitution-making process and to addressing the violence that had for too long allowed to jeopardize the peaceful process toward a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa. He appealed to all parties concerned to support the agreements reached so as to allow the negotiation process to resume.

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Margaret J. Anstee, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, said today in Luanda after the close of voting, that the great majority of Angola's 4.86 million registered voters had cast their votes over the past two days "in conditions which can generally be described as peaceful and orderly".

The counting of the votes had just begun, she said, and the United Nations will have to await the National Electoral Council's formal announcement of the results. A review would then follow of the reports coming in from its observers all over the country on the manner in which the electoral process was conducted before the final verification could be made as to the freedom and the fairness of the elections.

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However, she said, it was not too soon to congratulate the Angolan people for having given a demonstration of civic responsibility and dignity worthy of emulation by any country in the world.

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The United Nations is marking today for the second time the International Day for the Elderly. In a statement issued on the occasion, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, while noting that the world's population was getting older, stressed the opportunities posed by aging populations.

Describing it as a quiet demographic revolution, he said the ageing of populations was affecting the social, economic and even political structures of societies. Only societies that successfully adjusted their policies and attitudes to integrate the growing numbers and proportions of older people could prosper, he said.

This year's observance of the International Day for the Elderly coincides with the preparations for a high-level international conference on aging to be held on 15 and 16 October as part of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council this evening decides that "all States in which there are funds of the Government of Iraq...shall cause the transfer of these funds, as soon as possible to the escrow account" provided for in previous resolutions; requests the Secretary-General to transfer to the Compensation Fund a percentage of those funds and to use the remainder for the costs of United Nations activities concerning Iraq.

+ Two rounds of intensive technical discussions between United Nations and Iraq conclude at Headquarters; topics discussed were humanitarian programme for northern Iraq, extension of Memorandum of Understanding.

+ General Assembly continues debate hearing statements by Prime Ministers of Lesotho and Rwanda; by the Foreign Ministers of Tunisia, Lebanon, Cape Verde, Viet Nam, Tanzania; yesterday afternoon Uruguay and Burkina Faso addressed Assembly.

+ Latvia asks United Nations to dispatch fact-finding mission of human rights experts to that country to examine situation there.

+ Pakistan asks for inclusion of additional item on agenda of General Assembly's current session, entitled "Emergency assistance to Pakistan".

+ General Assembly's Legal Committee adopts six-power draft text urging States to take all measures to ensure compliance with existing international law on protection of environment in times of armed conflicts.

+ United Nations Environment Programme sends team to Somalia to investigate reports of possible hazardous waste dumping in that country and to ensure that planned disposals do not occur.

+ Three refugee camps in Thailand close this month after return of 150,000 Cambodians, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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+ World Habitat Day to be observed at Headquarters on Monday, 5 October, with awards presented for efforts to improve housing conditions worldwide.

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The Security Council decided tonight that "all States in which there are funds of the Government of Iraq....shall cause the transfer of those funds, as soon as possible to the escrow account" provided for in previous resolutions of the Council. It also decided that "all States in which there are petroleum or petroleum products owned by the Government of Iraq shall take all feasible steps to purchase or arrange for the sale of such petroleum or petroleum products at fair market value".

The text, adopted by a vote of 14 in favour and one abstention (China), also requested the Secretary-General to transfer to the Compensation Fund, a percentage of the transferred funds, and to use the remainder of funds for the costs of United Nations activities concerning the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the provision of humanitarian relief in Iraq, and other United Nations operations.

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Two rounds of intensive technical discussions between the United Nations and Iraq concerning the humanitarian programme for northern Iraq ended yesterday at Headquarters, according to a United Nations official today.

During the discussions, which also included the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Iraqi side sought and received clarification on several aspects of the winther plan for northern Iraq. On the Memorandum, a number of unresolved issues were taken up and new proposals put forward. Participants in the discussions were Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, and the Foreign Minister of Iraq, as well as representatives of United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

In related news, a donor meeting was convened by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva yesterday, 1 October, at which the winter plan was presented. It was emphasized that the United Nations' ability to respond to the humanitarian needs in northern Iraq will depend on timely and generous donor support.

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Opening the General Assembly's continuing debate this morning the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Major General Elias Phisoana Ramaema, told the Assembly that arrangements were very advanced towards holding the first genuine democratic elections since Lesotho attained independence in 1966.

The military, which assumed power in 1986 to restore peace, to foster national reconciliation, and to set in motion arrangements for a return to

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democratic rule, would not be a contestant in the forthcoming election, he noted. Its primary role would be to ensure that the election is free and fair. To achieve maximum transparency, several countries as well as international organizations had already agreed to send observer missions to witness the process.

Mr. Ramaema went on to say that the stability of the sub-region remained a resource of concern. South Africa continued to be in a grip of violence. Lesotho urged the South African Government, the liberation movements and all other democratic forces to continue the process of negotiations leading to the creation of a new and democratic South Africa.

The Arab Maghreb Union was entering its fourth year and had passed through important stages in the establishment of its structures within the framework of rotation of its chairmanship among its members States, Habib Ben Yahiam, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, said this morning. Nevertheless, he warned, some difficulties remained, one of them being the crisis between Libya and certain Western countries. He expressed the hope that a political solution could be found to the dispute, enabling the relaunching of the Arab Maghreb Union and voiding the danger of destabilization in the region.

Speaking about the Middle East situation, the Tunisian Foreign Minister welcomed the bilateral negotiations between the parties concerned, particularly Israel and the Palestinian delegation, and called on Israel to stop its policy of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, policy that constitutes, he said, a major obstacle to peace.

He also emphasized the need to adapt the role of the Security Council to the "new realities of the present international situation", and to reflect on the question of the international community's representation within the Security Council.

Lebanon had "irrevocably" committed itself to the Middle East peace initiative and to the principles and parameters on which it is based, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, Souheil Chammas, said. He stressed that the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territories would create "the propitious conditions" for Lebanon to re-establish strength and stability, and to contribute effectively to the peace process. If Israel allowed the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to carry out its task as mandated by the Security Council, the Force could play its important role more effectively and successfully, he said.

The main task that now confronted Lebanon, he continued, was that of rebuilding the infrastructure of basic services and vital sectors of economy. The revitalization of Lebanon's economy constituted an excellent investment for the future, he stressed, calling for foreign financial and technical assistance which was urgently needed, he said, in the order of billions of dollars.

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Rwanda had decided to move from autocracy to democratic pluralism in June 1991, its Prime Minister, Dismas Nsengiyaremye, told the Assembly this afternoon. Sixteen political parties had been registered, five of which had been represented in the government of transition which he had directed since 16 April.

Yet, as in physics, when forces of change were set in motion, forces of inertia resisted them. The transitional government had undertaken institutional changes to guarantee the independence and separation of legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government. The cost of democracy had also included addressing the unjust, costly, fratricidal war which had been carried out since October, 1990. The war had entailed considerable disruption, including the displacement of 350,000 persons, dozens of whom died daily in camps, where hunger and poor hygience prevailed. Some $30 million in aid per year was needed to address that situation, he said. There must be a negotiated solution, he said, as a military solution was evidently impossible.

Mr. Nsengiyaremye appealed to the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to accelerate the repatriation of refugees. His Government wished to reaffirm that the return of Rwandan refugees to their country was an "inalienable right", he added.

The economic situation of the developing nations had not improved, notwithstanding the efforts made at the national level, Jorge Carlos Fonseca, Foreign Minister of Cape Verde, said this afternoon. The precarious economic situation in which these countries found themselves played a negative role in the establishment and consolidation of the democratic institutions and offers fertile ground for the resurgence of conflits.

The problem of underdevelopment was a global concern shared by all those interested in stability and ecological balance of the world, he continued, stressing that Africa was the continent the most affected by drought and desertification. Cape Verde expected that the negotiation of a legal instrument such as the Convention on drought and desertification would be implemented in the course of this session of the General Assembly.

Nguyen Mahn Cam, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, called upon all concerned parties to cooperate in order to ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreements on Cambodia.

Viet Nam reaffirmed its strict observance and full implementation of provisions, as stipulated by the Agreements. At the same time, he said, Vietnam denounced acts of ostracism and persecution against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and categorically rejected slanderous allegations against her by those who try to cover up their activities which undermined the Paris Agreement.

Turning to Vietnam's foreign policy, he said that his country was entering into relations with regions with which only rare contacts had been established in the past, such as countries in the South Pacific, the Gulf and

Latin America. The normalization of relations with the United States would benefit peace and stability in South East Asia, he said, insisting that Viet Nam had done whatever possible in cooperating effectively with the United States to settle the question of Americans Missing in Action during the Vietnam war.

Ahmed Hassan Diria, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania, said Africa had witnessed several, intra-state conflicts in the last two years resulting in heavy human costs and property damage. Neighbouring States had paid heavily through efforts to strengthen their security on common borders, caring for refugees.

Such events, he said, had diverted the attention of Governments from developmental efforts to crisis management related to wars, armed conflicts and insecurity. These conflicts had also thwarted African efforts towards economic recovery and a peaceful transformation to a democratic order.

While encouraging Africa to transform its political and economic systems, the developed nations had a moral and historical duty to assist the continent in pursuing a sustainable development strategy that was people-oriented, said the Foreign Minister, underscoring that such assistance would ensure that Africa pursues genuine development and rids itself of a major cause of internal conflicts.

Mr. Diria also expressed support for United Nations reform, saying the role of the Organization must be reinterpreted to foster emancipation from underdevelopment, injustice, inequalities and political domination. He emphasized the important role of regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Nicolae Anton Tiu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Moldova, said last night that the conflict in East Moldova was a major obstacle to reform. He added that in that region pro-communist imperialist forces -- including the upper echelon of the old Soviet military -- had initiated a virtual war against the territorial integrity of Moldova.

Destabilization was further complicated by the presence of the Fourtheenth Army, he said. Representatives of the Russian Federation were procrastinating about its withdrawal; they claimed unjustifiably that that Army could play a peace-making role. But they could not act as guarantors of peace, the Moldovan Minister said, and those 4,000 servicemen could be easily withdrawn, given the political will of the Federation of Russia. The United Nations -- given its worldwide authority -- could insist on withdrawal, before the situation degenerated into a regional conflagration.

Cesaire Rabenoro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar, told the Assembly yesterday afternoon, "there must be a democratization of international relations", taking into account the need for a fair balance between the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council,

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the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. The limitations of the present system had become apparent, and because a global approach was required, it was time to reconsider certain of the Charter's provisions.

Mr Rabenoro went on to say that the members of the Security Council dated back to the situation at the end of the Second World War, but other members States were seeking fairer representation through enlargement of the Council and suppresion of the veto. The 1945 Charter must be revised, and the five permanent members should renounce their veto as part of revisions to be adopted by the sovereign Assembly.

Uruguay's Foreign Minister, Hector Gros Espiell, noted that his country's contribution of personnel to United Nations peace-keeping forces had increased, as he welcomed the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace in the General Assembly yesterday.

In this day and age, he said, with such issues as the environment, drug trafficking and terrorism being global concerns, it was necessary to create a new concept of sovereignty and to construct a peaceful world based on the protection of the entire international community.

Drug trafficking was now one of the most serious transnational crimes, he said, calling on the United Nations to strengthen its capacity for action via both bilateral and multilateral means in the regional and global realms.

Mr. Gros Espiell also welcomed the resolution of long-standing conflicts in Latin America, including the ruling by the International Court of Justice on the disputes between Honduras and El Salvador, which was accepted by both parties, the arbitration of disputes between Argentina and Chile and between Ecuador and Peru.

Thomas Sanon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkino Faso, said last night that peoples' desires for liberty, national identity and well-being were increasing all over the world. The democratization movement which began in 1987 in his country, had culminated in the adoption by referendum of a new Constitution and the election of the Head of State in 1991; multi-party legislative elections were held earlier this year.

Today, democratic institutions were in place, he said. The transition had proceeded without major crises and led to the social peace that was necessary for development efforts.

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Latvia has asked the United Nations to dispatch a fact-finding mission of human rights experts to that country to examine the situation there.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 28 September, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council, recalled that in his address to the General Assembly, he had indicated Latvia's willingness to have its human rights situation examined by experts of the Commission on Human

Rights. At that time, he had also held discussions about the situation with Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

The Latvian leader said his actions were in response to remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who had, in his statement to the General Assembly, made reference to "growing discriminatory practices against Russians, Ukranians, Belorussians, Jews and other non-indigenous nationalities in certain new States that emerged on the territory of the former USSR, specifically Estonia and Latvia".

The letter was transmitted to the Secretary-General by Latvian Ambassador Aivars Baumanis.

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Pakistan has asked for the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda of the General Assembly's current session, entitled "Emergency assistance to Pakistan". The request follows rains and floods during the second week of September, which have displaced some 6 million people and have caused extensive damage in the country.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Pakistani Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jamsheed K.A. Marker, said unprecedented rainfall occurred in the northern areas of Pakistan - Azad Jammu and Kashmir - and that the intensity of the rain was the highest ever experienced in that region. The exact number of casualties was not yet known, he said, but the damage -- estimated at more than $1 billion -- was so extensive that restoration work would take several years and would entail a very high cost.

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The General Assembly's Legal Committee (Sixth Committee) yesterday adopted a six-power draft text under which the Assembly would urge States to take all measures to ensure compliance with existing international law applicable to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflicts.

States that had not yet done so, would be urged to consider becoming party to relevant international conventions, and to incorporate the provisions of international law on protection of the environment into their military manuals.

In the discussion that followed, several representatives said that although the Hague Convention of 1907 and the 1949 Geneva Conventions did not specifically mention the environment, they had established universally applicable rules which limited the destruction of non-military targets. Also cited were Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, which included provisions dealing with dangers to the environment, and the 1977 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, which specifically prohibit actions causing long-term and severe environmental damage.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has sent a two-man team to Somalia to investigate reports of possible hazardous waste dumping in that country and to ensure that the planned disposals do not occur.

The UNEP team left on 26 September after the agency received information on incidents concerning toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes in Somalia, involving a number of European firms trading in such wastes. The companies had reportedly entered into contracts with certain Somali authorities for the disposal of wastes. The mission is expected to last for five days.

During yesterday's general debate, the Foreign Minister of Mauritius, Paul Raymond Bérenger called on the international community to "condemn the abominable actions of some private companies based in Europe which were shamefully exploiting situations as exist in Somalia", by dumping toxic waste on its territory. Mr. Béranger said such acts further contributed to the already calamitous situation there, adding that it was regrettable that while the United Nations and regional organizations were trying to resolve such conflicts, others were exploiting them for material gain.

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Three refugee camps in Thailand are closing this month under a programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that has sent back more than 150,000 Cambodians, the Agency said yesterday.

The UNHCR programme is arranging for the return of more than 350,000 Cambodians from seven Thai camps. The aim is to have all the Cambodian refugees home in time to register and vote in elections scheduled for May 1993, under the Paris Peace Accords that ended 12 years of war in Cambodia. At the end of the current monsoon season, UNHCR hopes to increase the monthly rate of returns to about 40,000 in November and December.

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World Habitat Day will be observed at United Nations Headquarters on Monday, 5 October, with the presentation of two sets of awards for achievements aimed at improving housing conditions all over the world. The theme of this year's observance is "Shelter for Sustainable Development".

At a ceremony to begin on Monday in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden, will present the 1991 World Habitat Awards given by the Building and Social Housing Foundation of the United Kingdom for the establishment of innovative and sustainable projects for human settlements. Specific programmes in Indonesia and in Singapore received these awards.

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The 1992 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards -- a programme initiated in 1989 by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) -- will also be presented during the ceremony to 15 winners selected for outstanding contributions to the cause of shelter for the poor and the improvement of human settlement conditions around the world.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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5 October 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes General Peace Agreement signed yesterday in Rome by the President of Mozambique and the leader of Mozambique National Resistence Movement; says he will present to Security Council plans of central and large role for United Nations in Agreement's implementation.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, tells UNHCR Executive Committee today that Agency is increasingly being forced to work in conditions of "insecurity and anarchy" as more and more humanitarian emergencies erupt in midst of armed conflict.

+ Security Council holds consultations this afternoon on Secretary-General's report on situation in Croatia.

+ Anti-apartheid Committee supports call by Goldstone Commission for urgent criminal investigation of those responsible in Ciskey massacre on 7 September.

+ In continuing debate, General Assembly is addressed by President of Kazakhstan; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao; Foreign Ministers of Myanmar, Libya, Dominica and Ethiopia; Chairmen of Delegations of Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda; on Friday evening, the Assembly heard Foreign Ministers of Guinea, Liberia and Sao Tome and Principe.

+ Secretary-General signs agreement on establishment of United Nations Interim Office in Kazakhstan.

+ Racism and discrimination are among the most "virulent, dangerous and insidious scourges of mankind", Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, tells General Assembly's Third Committee.

+ The General Committee recommends that General Assembly include additional item, "Emergency assistance to Pakistan", in its agenda for current session.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the General Peace Agreement signed yesterday in Rome by President Chissano of Mozambique and Afonso Dhlakama, the leader of Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO).

In a statement issued by his Spokesman today, the Secretary-General said the willingness of the two parties to put aside their animosities of the past and "work for peace in their war-ravaged country" was a most encouraging development. The General Peace Agreement envisaged a central and large role for the United Nations in its implementation, the statement said. The matter would be brought before the Security Council at the earliest possible date so that the United Nations would be in position to carry out the extremely important responsibilities assigned to it by the Agreement, it said.

The Secretary-General called upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint in the period before the General Peace Agreement would come into force. He added that the United Nations' role would require greater effort and more resources than was the case in Angola, but the international community recognized that these were sound investments.

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The United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees (UNHCR) was being forced to work under conditions of insecurity and anarchy, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata.

Speaking to the 46 member States of the UNHCR's Executive Committee in Geneva today, Mrs. Ogata said the rapid succession of crises this year had generated demands and expectations on the Agency on an ever-increasing scale. UNHCR had had to provide protection and assistance to the displaced and distressed, she said, and, on occasion, the Agency had had to turn to the military for logistical support. This had given new dimension both to the humanitarian operations and to the role of the military in the post-Cold War era, Mrs. Ogata said.

One and a half million refugees returned home voluntarily this year, most to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, Vietnam and Laos. But at the same time, "a staggering 3 million people have been forced to flee their homes", with the result that the UNHCR was now responsible for the lives and well-being of more than 18 million refugees, she said.

Mrs. Ogata also noted that "refugee flows had become increasingly bound up with the ethnic, cultural and religious fault lines cut through many of the world's States". The industrialized world had been forcefully reminded this past year that refugees were not a marginal phenomenon of a distant Third World", she said. Europe, with 2.6 million displaced persons, had again become the major theatre for refugee movements. Human misery deserved the same

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attention wherever it occured, she said, but "clearly did not receive it always", Mrs. Ogata pledged to increase her Agency's efforts to ensure that the silent refugee situations were not lost in oblivion.

In a separate development, UNHCR has announced the resumption of the United Nations humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo on Saturday, 3 October, with planes from the United States and possibly other nations. Some of the 18 other nations which have participated in the airlift have also indicated that they are considering rejoining the operation as soon as possible, the Agency said.

The airlift, which began on 3 July, is operated by UNHCR and the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR). It was suspended on 3 September, when an Italian cargo plan was shot down by a missile as it approached Sarajevo, killing all four crew. At its peak, the airlift carried 220 tons of food a day to the 450,000 people in the besieged city and its surroundings.

In other news from the region, for the second time in four days, unarmed UNPROFOR helicopters appeared to have been fired upon yesterday near Zagreb, according to a press release issued in Geneva.

In a letter to the Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, UNPROFOR Director of Civil Affairs Cedric Thornberry has asked for an indication as to which steps the Government was taking "to preclude any further such occurrences".

In addition, in a letter to the Chief of Staff of Croatian forces, General Philippe Morillon, Acting Force Commander of UNPROFOR, had complained of "the apparent lack of weapons control in the Croatian Army.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon on the report of the Secretary-General, issued last week, regarding the Prevlaka Peninsula and general situation in Croatia. According to a United Nations official, a draft resolution had already been prepared by Council members, but it was not known whether they would meet following consultations in order to adopt it.

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid has supported a call for an urgent investigation by the South African authorities in order to identify and bring to justice those found responsible for the incident on 7 September, in which 28 participants in a political demonstration at Bisho were killed by Ciskey soldiers. The call was put forward in a report by the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation, chaired by Justice Richard Goldstone, who described the massacre as "morally and legally indefensible".

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In a statement issued on Friday, 2 October, following the agreements earlier last week between South African President F.W. de Klerk and President of the African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela, Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria said a climate allowing for free political activities throughout South Africa was a crucial element for the political process of change to go forward in that country. The Committee concurred with President de Klerk's acknowledgement after the Ciskey massacre that it was not possible to negotiate constitutional issues before the question of violence had been dealt with satisfactorily.

The Special Committee reaffirmed its support for continuation of the process of peaceful change through negotiations towards a non-racial and democratic South Africa. It also emphasized that the South African authorities had the primary responsibility of government to control and prevent violence, and to safeguard the lives and security of all inhabitants in all of South Africa.

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Addressing the General Assembly for the first time since becoming a Member of the United Nations, the President of Kazakhstan, Noursultan A. Nazarbaev, proposed this morning that countries give 1 per cent of their defence budgets to the Organization's peace-making efforts and further increase this allocation annually by 1 percent of military defence expenditures as a contribution to the cause of peace. Kazakhstan was ready to be the first one to make such a contribution for the benefit of peace, he said.

Turning to concerns about peace and security in Asia and Eurasia and his country's initiative in holding a Conference on Interaction and Confidence in Asia, Mr. Nazarbaev said the peoples of his region need to mount collective search for the best ways of adapting to the future challenges of the integrated world. He called for the convening of a special session or United Nations Conference to "discuss the problems of the post-confrontational epoch".

The Minister also spoke about the "fragile pattern" of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) established late last year, saying the processes of transition to free-market economies and democracy in the CIS had been accompanied by growing socio-economic and political instability, the sharpening of present conflicts and the generation of new ones. He proposed the formation of a United Nations Regional Centre or Committee on preventive diplomacy in Central Asia, saying that while the area does "not form a continuous instability zone,..."the ideas of early detection of conflicts and preventive diplomacy could find the most practical direct implementation there".

The Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, Eugene Pursoo, told the Assembly this morning that a number of small Island States in the Caribbean, highly dependent on the banana industry, were faced with an uncaring call by certain countries to have bananas placed under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) framework. Noting that such a campaign

could wipe out the banana industry in the islands, the Permanent Representative stressed that the resulting social hardships and political instability were costs which would be ruinous to those countries' societies. He reiterated his appeal for flexibility on the banana issue and called on the pro-tarrif lobby to relax their efforts.

On the problem of illicit drug trafficking and money-laundering, the Foreign Minister stressed that no country was able to combat this scourge single-handedly. He appealed for increased support at the multilateral level to institute comprehensive measures aimed at demand-reduction, interdiction, rehabilitation of victims and the appropriate punishment for the couriers of this particular form of death and destruction.

Phoun Sipaseuth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, said this morning that in South-East Asia, despite certain areas of instability, the situation as a whole was moving towards peace, stability, cooperation and development. His country had signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation with neighbouring countries, had become a party to the 1976 Bali Treaty, and an observer in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), he indicated.

With regard to the question of Cambodia, Mr. Sipaseuth urged respect for and total implementation of the Paris Agreements which were necessary if the aspirations and interests of the Cambodian people were to be met.

He went on to call for coordinated action by all countries in the fight against drugs. Lao had cooperated in the area of integrated rural developments, particularly with neighbouring countries and international agencies such as the United Nations Drug Control Programme, he said.

Lionel Hurst, the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, thid morning called on the Organization to be aware of the special disabilities that were inherent to small island developing countries, and urged the Organization to respond in a manner which appropriately reflected those circumstances. The Antiguan Representative also applauded the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) for its funding of a number of beneficial projects in the Caribbean region, but pointed out that UNDP's use of per capita GNP for determining the development status and funding eligibility of small island States worked as a distortion.

Underdevelopment posed a threat to cherished human values, he said, pointing out that island nations and other small countries must look increasingly to the multi-lateral institutions for varied assistance in finding solutions to vexing problems. The United Nations system could not reduce its economic and social development role without adversely affecting prevailing material conditions, he said. His country's investment capital had to be imported, a situation which put it at the the mercy of the major capital markets, because of its small size, he said.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the delegation of Myanmar, U Ohn Gyaw, this morning told the Assembly of his concern at the

critics which, he said, "have unjustifiably portrayed Myanmar as a land where gross violations of human rights have been perpetrated".

Although Myanmar dissociated itself from the decision taken at the recent session of the Human Rights Commission, it would be receiving the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission in deference to the United Nations as well as to demonstrate its cooperation, he said. Myanmar had on 24 August acceded to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, thus affirming its international commitment to humanitarian principles, he indicated.

Turning to the problem of narcotic drugs, he said that Myanmar had in June taken a significant step by signing a sub-regional cooperative agreement with China and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). A similar agreement was also signed with Thailand and the UNDCP. These agreements were aimed at eliminating opium poppy cultivation and reducing trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemicals, used in the refining of heroin in the Myanmar-China and Myanmar-Thai borders areas. Talks had also been initiated with Laos on bilateral cooperation in the field of drug abuse control, and Myanmar was willing to initiate discussions with India and Bangladesh, with a view to setting up similar cooperative arrangements, he added.

The unjust sanctions imposed on Libya had caused its people human and material losses and damages, Ibrahim Muhammad Al-Bishari, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, said this afternoon before the General Assembly. The economic losses resulting from the air embargo amounted to over $2 million as a result of the fall in revenues generated by exports of fruits and vegetables, in addition to a 44 per cent decline in non-oil revenues, he said.

Libya had met all the requirments provided for in Security Council resolution 731 (1992) related to terrorism -- which it fully condemned -- and it was willing to provide for "a fair and unbiased trial for the suspects" in the Lockerbie case. Regrettably, Mr. Al-Bishari went on, at a time when Libya was expecting the Council to lift or reduce the unjust sanctions and was calling on the Secretary-General to send an international committee to verify that it had complied with all the requirements, the concerned parties had once again prevented the Secretary-General from responding to that request and sought to get the Security Council to adopt a new resolution extending the sanctions for four more months.

Mr. Al-Bishari reiterated his call for a peaceful settlement to this situation, a settlement, he said, that would safeguard the rights of all, maintain the principles of international law and save the world from escalation and confrontation.

On the situation in the Middle East, the Foreign Minister urged the international community to translate its support of the Palestinian people into practical measures "by pushing for an immediate stop to Jewish immigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab lands, halting the construction

of Israeli settlements, providing protection for the Palestinian people and implementing all resolutions relevant to the Palestinian question and that of the other occupied Arab territories", so that peace and justice might prevail in all parts of the Middle East.

Speaking on environmental issues in the General Assembly this afternoon, the Minister of External Affairs of Dominica, Brian Alleyne, said it was the responsibility of the industrialized countries to "contribute to the progress of developing countries in a compensatory manner", saying they must compensate for the damage to the environment and for the injustice done to them.

The industrialized countries had gained economic prosperity in disregard of the destruction of the environment, he said, while the developing countries were belatedly seeking to raise their standards of living through an industrialization process patterned on the model of developed countries. Such a quest, he said, would no doubt take its toll on the environment.

The Minister also stressed the sovereign right of a country to use its natural resources for its own economic development, while respecting the environment and bearing the needs of future generations in mind. "Small countries, no less than large ones, had the right to pursue their national interests free from the bullying threats of special interest groups", he said.

Mr. Alleyne also joined other Caribbean leaders in condemning the "violence and illegal interruption of the democratic process in our sister island" Haiti, which had led to the continual violations of human rights, increased poverty, economic degradation and the fleeing of thousands from their homeland. The refugee crisis was a cause for grave concern he said, urging all Member States to support the decision contained in the resolutions of the Organization of American States (OAS) concerning the restoration of democracy in that country and to participate in their effective implementation.

Seyoum Mesfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, recalled this afternoon that a Horn of Africa Summit had been convened in Addis Abeba in April 1992 in order to examine the serious humanitarian crisis in the sub-region and work with regional organizations and the United Nations.

At the end of the Summit, he exolained, a Declaration -- A Framework of Cooperation and Action Programme -- was issued. Most significantly, the Summit decided to establish a High Level Standing Committee of the Horn of Africa on Somalia to coordinate on-going efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The effort by the countries of the Horn of Africa was a practical manifestation of the principle that regional conflicts should, as much as possible, be resolved by the countries of the areas concerned. However, he went on, the efforts underway by the Horn of Africa governments, the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others to bring about lasting peace in Somalia should henceforth be pursued in a coordinate manner.

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Turning to the Eritrean question, Mr.Mesfin said it had also been resolved by the recognition of the right to self-determination of the Eritrean question. He announced that a referendum would be held next year in the presence of international observers, including the United Nations to determine definitively the future status of Eritrea.

The Ethiopean Foreign Minister further pointed out that the establishment of democracy in his country, whose economy was devastated by war and natural calamities, was an "extremely arduous undertaking". This is not a sign of dispair, he said, but an acknowledgement of a concrete reality which is a necessary first step to success in any undertaking.

On Friday evening, Ibrahima Sylla, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Guinea, noted that in his country, there were today more than 600,000 Liberian refugees, of whom two-thirds were children, who had fled the civil war that was destroying their country. Alleviating their suffering would require increased assistance, in addition to the considerable aid already provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Turning to internal issues, the Foreign Minister stressed that the transition to democracy in his country was proceeding peacefully. The constitutional institutions were being established and some 40 parties were involved in the political process. A Supreme Court ensured the regularity of the elections. The Governement was following a policy of transition based on dialogue and transparency, he said.

Mr. Sylla also said that economic revitalization and diversification in Africa must involve regional and subregional integration. The creation of the African Economic Community would allow the continent to profit from the complementarity of its human, natural and financial resources, he said.

Gabriel Baccus Matthews, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of National Unity of the Republic of Liberia, told the Assembly Friday evening that the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) had recently decided that, unless the National Patriotic Front of Liberia led by Charles Taylor complied with the Community's peace programme, the Community would impose sanctions against the areas controlled by the Front.

Mr. Matthews also said that the Community would also seek the assistance of the Security Council to make the sanctions "effective and binding on all members of the international community". His Government expected that the Council would support that decision, he said.

The international community needed to understand and appreciate the valuables which tended to make peace elusive in Liberia, he noted, adding that the Liberian crisis had been planned abroad and many of the insurgents trained outside the country. He also asserted that those who had initially provided the training, arms and finances had tried to explain their motives, "couched in spurious arguments of revolutionary duty, to their oppressed African brothers", and pointed out that it appeared that the insurgents were still receiving the cooperation and support of some "brotherly" peoples.

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"The nations of the third world would never be in a position to meet the development challenge until fairer and more appropriate mechanisms were introduced to alter the terms of their participation in world markets", said Albertino Braganca, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sao Tome and Principe, in his statement before the Assembly Friday evening. Development would not be possible without a change in the terms of the unequal exchange which had condemned the huge efforts of many peoples to the caprices of the free market, he indicated.

Mr. Braganca assured the Assembly that his country was prepared to meet the challenge. Political forces had turned to the establishment of a democratic State and a process was taking place which involved dialogue, tolerance, consensus and respect for the diversity of viewpoints in Sao Tome and Principe, he said. However, major financial constraints and a drop in the standard of living could pose a threat to his country's "neophyte democratic regime", he said, adding that the democratization of developing countries would never be more than a utopian dream if they were not backed by a new international vision, which was open to a realistic resolution of the problem of debt, a favourable change in the terms of trade and a gradual transfer of technology.

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An Agreement for the establishment of a new United Nations Interim Office in Kazakhstan was signed at Headquarters this morning by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and President Nursultan A. Nazarbaev of Kazakhstan.

The agreement follows the Secretay-General's decision to establish United Nations Interim Offices, with information and development components, in six countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. These unified offices of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan represent a new initiative on the part of the Secretary-General for closer cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the field.

The first of the Interim Offices was opened in Minsk, Belarus, on 8 September, and agreements to establish similar offices in Armenia and Azerbaijan were signed on 17 September and 1 October, respectively.

* * *

Racism and discrimination constituted one of the most "virulent, dangerous and insidious scourges of mankind", Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, told the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) in an introductory statement today.

Speaking as the Committee began consideration of questions of racism and racial discrimination and the right of peoples to self-determination, Mr.

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Blanca said that all the competent bodies of the United Nations in the field of human rights had recognized the necessity for a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The representative of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Community, described what was taking place in the former Yugoslavia as "racial persecution and discrimination of the worst possible sort". The Community condemned the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and was devoting considerable efforts to prevent such policies from taking place, he said.

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The General Committee this morning recommended that the General Assembly include an additional item, "Emergency assistance to Pakistan", in its agenda for the current session. The Committee proposed that the item be considered directly in the plenary.

The request to include the item was made in a letter to the Secretary-General from the Pakistani Permanent Representative to the United Nations in which he said that during the second week of September, unprecedented rainfall had occurred in the northern areas of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of villages were inundated, and floods and landslides had swept away many bridges, roads, railway tracks and the telecommunications network. According to preliminary estimates 1,022 persons were dead or missing; 176,117 houses were damaged or destroyed; 6 million people had been displaced; and 122,000 livestock were lost.

The representative of the Philippines said his Government would soon submit a request that an additional item on "Emergency assistance to the Philippines" be added to the agenda.

Also this morning, the General Committee recommended that the Assembly include another item in the agenda, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991", on the basis of a note by the Secretary-General. It was recommended that the item be allocated to the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council votes unanimously to authorize UNPROFOR to assume responsibility for complete withdrawal of Yugoslav Army from Croatia; in second unanimous decision tonight, Council asks Secretary-General to establish Commission of Experts, as a matter of urgency, to consider information from States on violations of humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia and to report to Council on its conclusions; Council to hold consultations later tonight with a view to a formal meeting on the situation in Angola.

+ Security Council's President expresses Council members' serious concern at situation in Georgia; calls on parties to abide by agreement signed in Moscow on 3 September.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina protests violation of "no-fly zone by Belgrade regime and its proxies" in that country.

+ Secretary-General and Foreign Minister of Ukraine to sign agreement on establishment of United Nations Interim Office in Ukraine.

+ There can be no sustainable development while there are over 1 billion homeless people in the world, Secretary-General tells World Habitat Day observance at Headquarters.

+ General Assembly hears address by President of Botswana; statements by Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Solomon Islands, Bahamas; by Foreign Ministers of Namibia, Philippines, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Honduras and Barbados; Chairman of Delegation of Sri Lanka. Yesterday, Assembly heard Guinea-Bissau, Chad and Uzbekistan.

+ Development role of United Nations in economic and social restructuring stressed, as Second Committee begins debate.

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The Security Council this evening unanimously approved the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Croatia, including the steps taken by

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For information media—not an official record

the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia to ensure control of the Peruca Dam. The Council also authorized UNPROFOR to assume responsibility for the complete withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army from Croatia, the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula and the removal of heavy weapons from neighbouring areas of Croatia and Montenegro, in cooperation, as appropriate, with the European Community Monitoring Mission.

Under resolution 779 (1992) adopted, the Council endorsed the principles agreed by the Presidents of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on 30 September that all statements or commitments made under duress, particularly those related to land and property, "are wholly null and void and that all displaced persons have the right to return in peace to their former homes".

The Council further urged that all parties and others concerned in Croatia comply with the obligations under the United Nations plan, especially with regard to the withdrawal and the disarming of all forces, including paramilitary forces.

In a second decision tonight, the Council unanimously asked the Secretary-General to establish, as matter of urgency, an impartial Commission of Experts to examine and analyze the information on violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions being committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

By adopting resolution 780 (1992) the Council also reaffirmed its request that all States, relevant United Nations bodies, and relevant organizations make this information available within 30 days of the adoption of tonight's resolution and to provide assistance to the Commission of Experts as appropriate.

By tonight's text, the Council also asked the Commission to act on any further information it may obtain through its own investigations or through the efforts of other persons or bodies. It also asked the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the establishment of the Commission as well as on the Commission's conclusions, and to take account of these conclusions in any recommendations for further appropriate steps.

By its resolution, the Council once again expressed its grave alarm at the continuing reports of widespread violations of humanitarian law occurring within the territory of the former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including reports of mass killings and the continuance of the practice of ethnic cleansing.

The Security Council was holding consultations tonight with a view to a formal meeting to consider the situation in Angola.

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In a statement to the press tonight, the Council's President, Jean-Bernard Merimée of France, expressed the Council members' very serious

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concern at the situation in Georgia and called on the parties to abide by the agreement they had signed in Moscow on 3 September.

This action follows a request by Georgia's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs for an urgent meeting of the Council to examine the situation in Georgia and Avkhazia. Mr. Mérimée also informed correspondents that the Georgian Vice Minister had requested that a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and 10 to 15 United Nations observers be sent to the area.

Mr. Mérimée also said that, as soon as the Council receives the Secretary-General's report on the situation, it would consider the appropriate measures to be taken.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina has protested what it describes as the violation of the "no-fly zone by the Belgrade regime and its proxies in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 4 October, President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina said all military flights over his country had been banned at the London Conference on Former Yugoslavia, but like almost all other proposed and/or accepted agreements by the aggressor, this agreement had been broken.

President Izebegovic urged Security Council to enforce the "no-fly zone" without delay, saying that a peaceful solution could never come about if one side was permitted to consistently abandon its promises and agreements.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Foreign Minister Anatoliy M. Zlenko of Ukraine were expected to sign an agreement at Headquarters today for the establishment of a new United Nations Interim Office in Ukraine.

In March, the Secretary-General informed the Foreign Ministers of six members of the Commonwealth of Independent States of his intention to establish United Nations Interim Offices with information and development components in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. These unified offices represent a new initiative on the part of the Secretary-General aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the field.

The agreement signed today is the fifth of its kind. An Interim Office was inaugurated in Belarus on 8 September, and others are expected to be opened shortly in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a statement yesterday that there could be no sustainable development while there were over 1 billion

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homeless people in the world. The statement was delivered at the World Habitat Day observance at Headquarters.

Not only could there be no sustainable development as long as millions remained without adequate housing, "there can be no peace or security either", the Secretary-General stated. He went on to say that shelter was a key word for the United Nations. "In a wider, more political sense, shelter and protection sum up our mission...they remind us that the Charter of the United Nations is founded on 'faith in the dignity and worth of the human person'", the Secretary-General said.

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Opening the General Assembly debate this morning, Theo-Ben Gurirab, Foreign Minister of Namibia said the situation in South Africa "had remained explosive and dangerous and therefore warranting international pressure on the South African Government". He called for a prolonged United Nations presence there to monitor the violence and assist in the transition until the emergence of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

Mr. Gurirab also expressed support "for and solidarity with all the liberation movements and democratic forces" in the violence-torn country. He called on Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party to rejoin Nelson Mandela and President de Klerk in the negotiations on the new South Africa.

Turning the environmental concerns, the Foreign Minister said the Rio Earth Summit had made it clear that global economic development and environmental protection go hand in hand. Namibia, itself a dry, semi-desert country had adopted a "Green Plan" outlining a comprehensive framework for sustainable environmental principles and endorsed the proposed Convention on Desertification, he said, urging that elaboration on the convention start during this current session. Apartheid colonialism had subjected Namibia's renewable and non-renewable resources to "ruthless plunder mainly for the benefit of foreigners", he said, adding that his Government had taken steps to put an end to the disastrous situation.

Kenya, as a neighbour to Somalia, had had to bear more than its fair share of Somali refugees, now totalling more than half a million people, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Kenya, Wilson Ndolo Ayah, told the Assembly this morning. He added that close to six million out of Somali's population of seven million people were in serious distress, with some two million condemned to certain death before this human tragedy is eventually brought to a conclusion.

The Kenyan Foreign Minister expressed his Government's gratitude for the efforts by the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General in charge of Humanitarian Affairs in putting together a comprehensive and multi-faceted programme of action covering humanitarian relief, the consolidation of ceasefire, the reduction of organized violence and national reconciliation. However, he said, while his country envisaged humanitarian assistance as of

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the utmost priority in the present circumstances, it still stressed the necessity for a round table between the warring parties. There is absolutely no alternative to dialogue, he said, urging the Somali leaders to "put the interest of Somali people before their narrow and personal interests".

The Foreign Minister of the Philippines, Roberto R. Romulo, reminded the Assembly of his country's return to democracy in 1986 and its recent national elections five months ago. The new leadership had chosen, through its policies, to ride the crest of the wave of economic liberalization because it believed that it was the best road to sustained economic growth and a better life, he explained.

A few week ago in Jakarta, the Philippines had joined the Non-Aligned Movement, which it found larger, stronger and more relevant than ever before. Many of the old divisions in the Movement had closed, and a new cohesion had been found. Moreover, Mr. Romulo said, the Movement had turned more of its attention to problems of trade, finance, technology, and all those other things that make up the economic relations among nations.

He went on to say that the continuing scourge of poverty, the rapid increase in population, together with advances in transportation and communication, had given rise to a new phenomenon -- the massive migration of labor. As one of the largest sources of this migration, the Philippines were convinced that it was now time for the international community to deal with this phenomenon on a planned and strategic basis and on an international scale.

Askar Ch. Aitmatov, the Foreign Minister of Kyrgystan, told the General Assembly this morning that, from the beginning, his country saw "no other alternative as to how to use our obtained right for independent choice but for the establishment of pluralistic democracy". He said it was the only medium for creating a decent life for the individual and to ensure political, economic and spiritual freedoms.

The country was passing through a hard economic crisis, he said, aggravated by natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods which caused human losses and enormous material damage. It would be difficult for his country alone to overcome this problem, he said, reminding the Assembly of the importance of economic, financial, technical and humanitarian assistance provided to his country by the world community. He also welcomed the forthcoming opening of the United Nations Interim Office in Bishek which would promote the integration of Kyrgystan in the fields of international, technical, scientific and humanitarian cooperation.

Kyrgystan was open for mutually beneficial relations and ready for partnership with those countries which shared its ideals of freedom and democracy, he said. His country attributed great importance to maintaining cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independence and intended to act as a peaceloving, neutral non-nuclear State, he said. It was also ready to sign a Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear arms and to approach other issues of strengthening of strategic and military security.

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Mario Carias Zapata, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, said this morning that a new era at the United Nations was beginning, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report "Agenda for Peace". That plan would lead the way to building new methods for international diplomacy. Honduras supported the greater use of international organizations, such as the International Court of Justice. The Court had just handed down a decision on a 100-year-old border dispute between Honduras and El Salvador, with which both countries would comply, he said, announcing that his country would also offer its armed forces for use in United Nations peace-keeping missions.

The Government of El Salvador and representatives of the country's insurgency movement had brought an end to conflict in El Salvador in January 1992, Mr. Zapata said. Honduras supported demobilization of conflicting forces and the integration of insurgents in regular life. The entering into force of that agreement would have broad implications for peace and development in Central America, he said. The ideas laid out in the System of Integration of Central America could now be realized.

Sir Ketumile Masire, President of Botswana, speaking about the situation in South Africa, told the Assembly this afternoon that, at the time of their suspension three months ago, negotiations undertaken by the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) had undeniably achieved positive result, considering that less than two years ago the apartheid edifice was still very much intact.

Furthermore, he said, the recent massacres at the bantustan of Ciskei seems to have had a sobering effect on the South African leaders, showing, if anything at all, that the negotiation's process which just resumed was the only hope for South Africa. President Masire further welcomed the Security Council's decision to deploy United Nations observers to South Africa. The involvement of the international community in the process of change in South Africa was a crucial element, he said.

Turning to the African economic crisis issue, he insisted that concerted efforts should be made to translate the United Nations new agenda for Africa into concrete programmes and projects that could put his continent on the path to economic recovery and development. The Global Coalition for Africa (GCA), a forum bringing together policy makers from Africa and its international partners, had made a significant contribution to the new consensus-building process since its inception in Maastricht in 1990.

The South Pacific region was unique because the marine environment was an integral part of its existence, Baddeley Devesi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health of Solomon Islands, told the Assembly this afternoon. That was why his country considered environmental questions important and had welcomed the decision made by France to suspend its nuclear testing in the South Pacific region, and expressed the hope that this suspension could become permanent.

The Minister also drew attention to the vulnerability of small island countries to external and internal security threats, saying "undesirable,

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criminal and atrocious activities and behaviour both from within and outside of the region" continued to threaten the sovereignty, security and economic integrity of the South Pacific countries. These undesirable activities could not be addressed at the regional level alone, he continued, urging the active involvement of and collaboration with relevant international agencies in that area.

On decolonization, the Minister noted with appreciation the positive measures pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities in the implementation of the Matignon Accord and called for a continuing dialogue among all political parties in that territory to ensure that self-determination can be achieved.

The Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, Stanley Kalpagé, said this afternoon that, for over half a century, his country had had a proud record of uninterrupted respect for the electoral verdict. In Sri Lanka, he went on, steps were being taken to establish a Human Rights Commission to strengthen the fulfillment of its constitutional obligations relating to fundamental rights.

Efforts to establish a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean were continuing, he said. The recent Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta took cognizance of that view and reiterated the determination to continue those efforts.

On the issue of regional organizations, Mr. Kalpagé said Sri Lanka had the honour this year to be elected as Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), which was seeking to promote trade and commerce among countries belonging to the organization.

In his statement to the Assembly this afternoon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados, Maurice A. King, urged that the participation of small States in United Nations peace-keeping operations be encouraged and facilitated by the Organization. A number of small countries had been unable to play a part in traditional peace-keeping operations simply because they lacked the logistical military capability for so doing, he said.

The expanded dimensions of peace-keeping had provided the possibility for participation by small States in other fields in which they may have expertise, he said, such as human rights monitoring and the supply of civilian and police personnel. He also welcomed the Norwegian proposal for the establishment of a special United Nations Institute for education, training in peace-keeping and related activities as a means to respond to these new dimensions.

Mr. King also welcomed the serious debate now taking place on reforming and strengthening the economic and social mandate of the Organization. However, any such reform must be consistent with the provisions of the Charter and seek to ensure universality and accessibility. He cautioned that care must be taken "not to exclude the small and powerless". The emphasis currently given to developmental issues within the administrative structure of

the Organization did not reflect the priority accorded to those issues by a majority of member States, he said.

The Barbadian Minister also condemned the usurpation of the authority of the legitimate Government of President Aristide in Haiti. If the electoral process that was monitored and authenticated at every step by the United Nations could be overturned with impunity, he asked, "what message are we conveying to would-be dictators and what assurance are we providing for the fledgling democracies in the region?".

Citing "almost three decades of the serious problem of illegal Haitian immigration", which had subjected his country's economic, health and welfare agencies to unexpected demands, the Foreign Minister of the Bahamas, Orville A. Turnquest, pleaded with the international community this afternoon, to come to the aid of the Haitian people. He expressed support for United Nations efforts aimed at strengthening the initiatives of the Organization of American States (OAS) and "implored all concerned to continue to use peaceful means to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Haitian situation".

The Bahamian Minister also decried the problems of drug abuse, drug trafficking and illicit production which had continued to haunt the international community with catastrophic effects on individual societies. He affirmed his Government's support for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in its efforts to provide valuable assistance to countries fighting the drug menace. The most significant element in the fight against the drug trade was cooperation between States, he said, pledging his Government's continued collaboration with its neighbours to fight against the drug menace.

Mahamat Ali Adoum, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chad, told the Assembly last night that the civil wars which marked the last decade of the twentieth century had seriously threatened peoples' desires for peace and security. Aware of their own recent internal conflict, the people of Chad were perhaps not in a position to preach, he said, but arms control was an absolute necessity, and the registry of weapons was a welcome proposal.

The democratic process in Chad was irreversible, he said, reminding delegates that his country had enacted a law laying down guidelines for the functioning of political parties in a pluralistic democratic framework and had set a schedule for the holding of a "sovereign national conference" by early 1993.

Like many other countries on the African continent, Chad faced an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, he said. Measures taken by the Government to cope were met with strenuous trade union opposition, and strikes were held in May, June, July and August. To allow the measures to take effect, the Government had negotiated and had, however, concluded a truce on social questions for the rest of the year. To further reduce expenditure, the Government was also pursuing its reconstruction of Chad's army by reducing its strength from 50,000 to 20,000 men and officers, with technical and financing from the French Government. The revitalization of Chad's economy, he said,

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was being carried out in a political context which was not always conducive to democratization, adding that there were pockets of resistance to change which had been overcome thanks to the Government's dialogue-oriented approach.

External debt, insufficiency of resources and declines in export earnings, all compounded by natural disasters, contributed to accentuating the degradation of socio-economic conditions in many countries in Africa, Boubacar Touré, Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, said yesterday morning. A new framework for cooperation was required, one that involved sufficient resources, debt reductions and sustainable solutions to commodity problems, he said.

The search for a solution to the problem of foreign debt would not only require international solidarity and responsibility on all sides, but also the recognition of the objectives of growth for developing countries. Mr. Touré urged the international community to take urgent and appropriate action to adopt a consistent programme of cooperation for the development of developing countries and, above all, Africa, which he called "an almost forgotten continent".

Ubaidulla A.Abdurazzakov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, expressed deep concern yesterday afternoon about the development of the situation in neighbouring Tadjikistan, which was near civil war, he said. The international danger was that the armed clashes of the fighting forces, with thousands of victims among the civilians, could easily spread to the neighbouring Central Asian States where the people would be involved in an endless fratricidal war.

The border between Tadjikistan and Afghanistan where there were hundreds of thousands of armed men, remained open, he added. The actions of extremists from those armed groups which were instigated by those who played on the national and religious feelings of the people could have unpredictable consequences.

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The development role of the United Nations in the context of restructuring the Organization's economic and social fields emerged as a major theme of this morning's debate on the world economic situation in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

Among those participating in the debate, Peru said the new format of the Economic and Social Council should be modified by eliminating its Committees, and the Council should exercise its primordial role of coordination of the development activities. Japan said any reform measure should be designed to enhance, not weaken, the coordination function of the Council. Canada said the reform process should give the Council a role of providing political direction and impetus, combined with the power to steer the development agencies.

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Addressing the Committee for the first time, the representative of Croatia said his country was suffering from the effects of a poorly managed communist economy and attacks from an aggressor, which had resulted in unprecedented destruction of human, cultural and industrial resources. Extensive international support was badly needed to alleviate the effects of the war, which had produced a large flow of refugees. There was no better place for the United Nations to exercise its capacity to resolve humanitarian emergencies, he added.

Yesterday, Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, Ji Chauzhu, warned that an economic calamity could ensue if the world community failed to tackle such issues as famine, massive debt, political instability, rising tides of economic refugees and the absence of meaningful economic policy. He said the economic destinies of all the member States were linked and called for international efforts to secure the collective economic ship, without which all would sink together.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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7 October 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Full investigation into deaths of two United Nations members, NGO nurse and freelance journalist in southern Sudan last week, ordered by Secretary-General; high-level mission to go to Nairobi this weekend to review circumstances leading to incident.

+ Concerned at reports that one of parties to Angolan Peace Agreements is contesting validity of recent election, Security Council decides to send an Ad Hoc Commission to that country to support Agreements' implementation.

+ General Assembly calls for United Nations assistance to flood victims in Pakistan.

+ Continued functioning of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission indispensable for maintaining demilitarized zone and reducing tension, according to report by Secretary-General to Security Council; recommends extension of mandate of UNIKOM for further six-month period, until 31 March, 1993.

+ Debate in General Assembly continues with statements by Foreign Ministers of Uganda, Malawi, Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Micronesia; by Chairmen of Delegations of Bhutan, Bulgaria.

+ Second Committee hears call for United Nations to launch concerted campaign to eradicate poverty; creation of 400 million jobs especially in poverty-stricken areas urged by ILO Deputy Director-General.

+ Lifting of United States travel restrictions for some nationals announced in Committee on Host Country Relations.

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A full investigation into the deaths of two United Nations staff members, an NGO nurse and a freelance journalist in southern Sudan last week has been ordered by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, according to a statement today.

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For information media—not an official record

A high-level mission, headed by Assistant Secretary-General Abdou Ciss, would leave for Nairobi this weekend to review circumstances leading to those deaths. Since the victims were killed while on mission in connection with Operation Lifeline Sudan, the investigation mission would also include senior representatives from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the statement said.

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Concerned at reports that one of the parties to the Angolan Peace Agreements is contesting the validity of the recent election, the Security Council last night decided to send an Ad Hoc Commission to Angola to support the implementation of the Agreements. The Commission will be composed of members of the Council and will work in close cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Angola, Margaret Anstee.

The action came in the form of a statement read out on behalf of the Council by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimée of France, in which the Council called upon all the parties to respect the final election result.

The first-ever free multi-party elections in Angola were held on 29 and 30 September.

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The continued functioning of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) was an indispensable factor in maintaining the demilitarized zone and reducing tension, the Secretary-General has said. He has therefore recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of UNIKOM for a further six-month period, until 31 March, 1993.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 2 October, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated that the situation in the demilitarized zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border had been marked by a gradual heightening of tension in some areas. He warned that although the trend had not so far become a cause for concern, it needed to be carefully monitored.

The main source of tension, the Secretary-General wrote, was the issue of status of property rights of Iraqi farmers who would be affected by the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. He urged both sides to exercise restraint after a number of incidents, in one of which a UNIKOM military observer was injured, and said most minor incidents could be avoided if the parties maintained a reasonable distance from the boundary line established on UNIKOM's map.
Document S/24615

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The Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations, Ugyen Tshering, opening the continuing debate in the General Assembly this morning, said the long established target of 0.7% of GNP for official development

assistance had not been reached by most donor countries and was not likely to happen during this century because of increasing modalities and conditionalities.

The need for debt relief and the requirement of additional credit, he went on, were still awaiting comprehensive solution. Trade was one of the few avenues available to developing countries for progress and must not be restricted. It was also necessary that access to knowledge and technology be made easier.

Turning to internal issues, Mr. Tshering recalled that even though development activities in Bhutan started only in the 1960's, major changes had already taken place: an effective financial management system, a basic network of social services, a growing export sector composed of energy, minerals and agricultural products had been established since then. Despite this progress, Bhutan's economic infrastructure remained inadequate and, in addition to the problems all Least Developed Countries faced, Bhutan, he said, was further handicapped by being landlocked.

The Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Bulgaria, Slavi Pashovski, said this morning that the Yugoslav crisis had to be contained and that an additional effective means might be the deployment of international observers. Bulgaria was willing to accept such mission on its territory.

The sanctions imposed by the Security Council, he went on, also affected countries which applied them, and Bulgaria's economy had suffered considerable losses. Compensation programmes and a "Marshall plan for the recovery of the Balkans" should be set up to avoid punishing innocent countries, he said.

Bulgaria was in the process of establishing friendly relations and signing peace agreements with neighbouring States, including Serbia and Montenegro. However, he stated, the deaths, refugee problems and the barbaric practice of "ethnic cleansing" eloquently demonstrated the need to create an international criminal court to judge individuals.

Uganda was committed to the liberalization of its economy and had enacted an attractive foreign investment code, Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, said this morning. These reforms could be meaningful only if the external economic environment was supportive and responded positively through increased investment and trade.

Turning to regional issues, the Foreign Minister deplored the conflict in Southern Sudan, whose solution lay, he said, in dialogue and reconciliation among all parties. He expressed the hope that both the Government of Sudan and the SPLA would facilitate the international humanitarian relief effort which, at the moment, he regretted, was suspended with only little help reaching the affected population.

The Foreign Minister welcomed the "fruitful" regional and international initiatives for the resolution of the social and armed conflict in Rwanda. His country, he said, supported the on-going dialogue, under Tanzanian mediation,

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between the Rwanda authorities and the Rwandese Patriotic Front, and appreciated the constructive and helpful role played by the international observers in those negotiations, he said.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs of Malawi, Lovemore .G. Munlo, renewed this afternoon his appeal for urgent assistance to avert a further worsening of conditions in his country as a result of the severe drought in Southern Africa. The drought had had a "major debilitating effect" on the socio-economic development of his country, he said, adding that the situation had remained critical, despite the assistance of the international community. Malawi, which was normally self-sufficient in food, had been adversely affected and was now facing serious food shortfalls. Fifty per cent of its food aid needs had not yet been met, the Minister said.

Malawi's human rights record had led to reduced support for the country's development programmes, the Minister said, announcing that his Government had embarked on a "vigorous programme aimed at transparent demonstration of its continued respect for human rights" at a policy level and in practice. Its action had included the release of political detainees as well as inviting the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisons and places of detention in his country, he said.

He also welcomed the Peace Accord signed on 4 October between the President of Mozambique and the leader of RENAMO. The end of the 16 years of civil war in Mozambique also meant that the Nacala and Beira corridors, Malawi's most cost-effective routes to the sea, would begin to function at full capacity, he said.

He also told the Assembly that Malawi had been host over the years to over 1 million refugees from Mozambique, and expressed hope that they could now return to their homes. The role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was extremely important, he said, not only in facilitating the return and resettlement of the refugees, but also internally displaced people.

Said Musa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development and Education of Belize, told the Assembly this afternoon that the external debt of Latin America and the Caribbean had not been reduced but had escalated alarmingly in the past ten years, from $285 billion in 1981 to $500 billion today. At the same time, he said, the application of structural adjustment policies had enormously increased the social debt in many countries of the region since the burden of payment had fallen disproportionately on the poor.

Cancellation or reduction of the debt of underdeveloped countries would be an act of justice, he said, a first step in the process of constructing a new world order that will enable sustainable development.

Speaking of the situation in Haiti, the Foreign Minister said that his country, as part of the Caribbean region, could not remain silent by the exile

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of the first freely elected President of Haiti. Neither could Belize condone the systematic strangulation of another Caribbean nation in violation of all norms of international law.

The Caribbean region, and especially the countries of the Windward Islands, of which St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a part, had firmly committes themselves to structural adjustment and other economic reforms designed to increase their export earnings and competitiveness in the global economy, Herbert George Young, Foreign Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, told the Assembly. In the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, free trade was established in 1988, and in the wider CARICOM grouping the 1984 Nassua Agreement on Structural Adjustment, and the 1989 Grand Anse Declaration, was expressed the urgency that the regional leadership attached to the transformation process.

Mr. Musa also urged the early ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which, he said, could mitigate some of the hazards which small Caribbean Islands, like his country, and other low-lying coastal developing States faced.

The Secretary for External Affairs of Micronesia, Resio S. Moses, in his statement this afternoon said that, to the modest extend that the Federated States of Micronesia had made its presence known within the past year, it had been mostly in the context of the environment, and particularly in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change. Micronesia were comprised of low-lying, small islands, which was why the entire nation found itself on the frontline along with others similarly situated who would suffer devastating consequences of unchecked global warming.

Rising sea levels would ultimately cover the islands, but long before that the protective coral reefs would bleach and fall victim to increased storm surges, which would ruin crops and render unfit frechwater resources. "We are facing nothing less than the end of island civilizations that have endured for thousands of years", Mr. Moses said. Micronesia was therefore looking anxiously toward the prompt implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The objective was to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at levels which did not adversely affect the climate, he said.

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A call for the United Nations to launch a concerted campaign to eradicate poverty was made this morning by the Representative of Mexico, Jorge Montaño, as he addressed the General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) in its continuing debate on the world economic situation.

"Eliminating poverty means not only assisting the most vulnerable population groups but, basically, laying the foundations for integrating them into production processes and enabling them to share the benefits of development", Mr. Montaño said. Noting today's signing of the North American

Free Trade Agreement, he added that it "aimed not at the formation of closed blocs, but at free trade which will benefit from comparative advantages and make gainful use of the geographical situation".

Yesterday, Heribert Maier, Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) told the Committee that some 400 million jobs must be created in the coming years, including 10 million just to maintain current employment levels in Africa alone. The prospects for creating jobs were not bright, he said, and workers in developing countries would be left with the choice between seeking jobs in the informal sector or migrating to other lands in order to survive. Every effort must be made to generate employment opportunities in poverty-stricken countries and areas, Mr. Maier said.

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Travel restrictions on senior diplomatic personnel of the Russian Federation Mission to the United Nations and on Russian nationals working with the United Nations Secretariat are to be removed, according to an announcement yesterday by the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, Constantine Moushoutas of Cyprus. He said the host country -- the United States -- had also removed restrictions on travel of Georgian Mission staff and Georgians working with the Secretariat.

During yesterday's session, the issue of indebtedness was also brought up before the Committee. The observer for Switzerland, Paul R. Seger, told the Committee that the United Nations should take effective punitive action against Member States that accrued large local debts and did not pay. The Organization had the authority since the missions were accredited to the United Nations, not to the host country.

Safa Ahmed, the representative of Iraq, called for an unfreezing of his country's liquid assets in the United States which had been frozen by the Government of the host country, saying those assets included money used for running the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations. The assets should be released so that the Mission could pay its staff and for its housing, he said. He also called for the lifting of travel restrictions on all diplomatic mission personnel.

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Violations of the immunities of diplomatic and consular representatives and violent attacks against their missions were condemned this morning, as the General Assembly's Sixth Committee (Legal) began consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, the representative of the United Kingdom said that many of the incidents described in a report of the Secretary-General on the topic had involved missions or

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representatives of the same States. Whatever the policies of those States, he said, there could be no justification for criminal attacks against their missions.

The representative of Venezuela drew the Committee's attention to the Security Council statement of 2 April, which had strongly condemned an attack on the Venezuelan Embassy in Tripoli and had demanded that the Government of Libya provide compensation. The representative of Libya informed the Committee that Libyan security forces had responded appropriately to the incident and that the Government had provided compensation for damages to the Embassy.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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8 October 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, concerned over "recent deteriorating situation" in Georgia, supports Secretary-General's decision to send high-level mission to that country; calls on all parties to cease fighting and observe Moscow agreement of 3 September.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on the former Yugoslavia to travel to Moscow tomorrow for talks with Russian Foreign Minister, and possibly with President Yeltsin.

+ On last day of general debate, General Assembly is addressed by Prime Ministers of Fiji and Vanuatu; Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea; last night Assembly heard statements by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Francophonie of Equatorial Guinea and Chairman of Delegation of Comoros; total of 167 speakers addressed Assembly during three-week general debate.

+ Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes creation of Commission on war crimes; says "prosecuting guilty and exonerating innocent" important for peace and reconciliation in that country.

+ Security Council agrees to add Spain and United States to list of Member States contributing troops to United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia as part of enlargement authorized by Council mid-September.

+ Norodom Sihanouk, President of Supreme National Council of Cambodia, deplores press reports citing "bad situation" in that country and delay in implementation of Paris Agreements; says peace throughout the Khmer land is real.

+ United Nations Environment Programme says deal to ship hazardous waste to Somalia has been cancelled.

+ Second Committee is told spirit of Earth Summit in Rio is "already fading away".

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For information media—not an official record

+ Sixth Committee approves draft text seeking broader adherence to Protocols Additional to 1949 Geneva Conventions on protection of victims of armed conflicts.

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The Security Council, concerned over the recent "deteriorating situation" in Georgia, has expressed support for the Secretary-General's decision to send another mission to that country, in response to a request by the Georgian Government. The mission will be headed by an Under-Secretary-General, who will be accompanied by members of the Secretariat, some of whom will remain on the spot.

According to a Presidential statement read out by Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée (France), the Council endorses the mandate proposed by the Secretary-General in his letter of 7 October. Council members said they looked forward to the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General upon the return of his mission from Georgia. The Council is prepared to consider the recommendations that the Secretary-General plans to submit to it, concerning the contributions which the United Nations could make to the implementation of the Moscow agreement of 3 September.

The Council noted that the current Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) intends to dispatch a mission to Georgia in the near future and underlines the need to ensure coordination between the efforts of the United Nations and those of the CSCE aimed at restoring peace in the region.

The Council called on all the parties to cease the fighting in Georgia and to observe the terms of the Moscow agreement which affirms that the territorial integrity of Georgia shall be ensured, which provides for the establishement of a cease-fire, the commitment by the parties not to resort to the use of force, and which constitutes the basis for an overall political solution.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia -- Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen -- are expected to visit Moscow tomorrow for talks with Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, and possibly with President Boris Yeltsin.

According to a press release issued today in Geneva, the discussions will focus on the Co-Chairmen's current efforts to negotiate a political settlement in the Yugoslav crisis, including a cessation of hostilities and the demilitarization of Sarajevo.

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The general debate of the General Assembly came to a close today as it heard the statement of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu. In the course of its

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three-week debate, the Assembly heard from a total of 167 speakers -- 24 Heads of State, one Vice President, 13 Prime Ministers, 10 deputy Prime Ministers, 103 Foreign Ministers and 16 Chairmen of Delegations.

Tomorrow, the Assembly will meet in plenary to take up item 10 concerning the report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization. On Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 September, the Assembly will meet to consider item 93 relating to the World Social Situation, Youth Ageing, Disabled Persons and Family.

Opening the debate this morning, the Prime Minister of Fiji, Sitiveni L. Rabuka, said his country would continue to oppose nuclear testing and the dumping of nuclear and other toxic waste in the South Pacific region. He further stressed the importance that his Government attached to the preservation of the eco-system in that region. The countries in the South Pacific welcomed the recent decision by France to suspend its nuclear testing and were greatly encouraged by that country's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that France will also become a party to the protocol to the South Pacific Nuclear Free-Zone Treaty.

Fiji was also encouraged by the measures being taken by the French Government under the Matignon Accords to provide a framework for New Caledonia's evolution towards self-determination and independence, considering essential that progress be made towards the decolonization of New Caledonia.

Speaking about economic issues, the Prime Minister expressed his country's strong support for the liberalization of world trade, pointing out that Fiji was already committed to giving the smaller Pacific Island Countries in the region duty-free access to its markets for a number of commodities and products.

The Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, John Kaputin, this morning welcomed France's decision to suspend its nuclear weapons-testing programme in French Polynesia and expressed the hope that this suspension would be permanent. He brought his Governement's support to United Nations' involvement in the decolonization of New Caledonia, and expressed hope that the forthcoming mid-term review of the implementation of the Matignon Accords would lead to further progress towards safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Kanaks.

The Foreign Minister also made public the intention of his Government to seek regional support for the appointment of a panel of experts to prepare a practical report, based on experience in diverse countries and on close, critical analysis of possible options, for presentation to the United Nations. Such a document, he said, - which would constitute the economic counterpart to Agenda for Peace - would offer the opportunity to stimulate the exchange of practical ideas and experiences relevant to enhancing and increasing opportunities for economic participation for the benefit of people in developing countries.

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Closing the general debate this morning, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Maxime Carlot Korman, proposed that at this session of the General Assembly, a number of important measures be taken as a follow-up to the Earth Summit. Among these was the establishement of the high-level Commission on Sustainable Development. Vanuatu hoped that the Commission's Secretariat would be situated in New York, so that all countries would have an opportunity to attend, he said.

Vanuatu believed, as did other States in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), that the decisions made with regard to the site of the Commission's secretariat, the venue of its meetings, its size and its composition would be very critical for the outcome of its meetings. Another important measure of the General Assembly would be to consider as a follow-up to the Earth Summit the proposed Global Conference on Sustainable Development for Small Island States. A meeting of that nature was long overdue, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu said.

Amini Ali Moumin, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Comoros pointed out yesterday afternoon that the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte was again on the agenda of the General Assembly. He expressed his country's great regret that the problem had existed for 17 years, since Comoros had close links of friendship and cooperation with France. Comoros, he went on, had always preferred dialogue and had obeyed the rules of law in its search for a peaceful solution to the problem, whereas on the French side, no decision had been taken to find a solution. Mayotte was Comorian land and the Comorian Government was determined that it would be reintegrated into Comoros, he stated.

In addition to its policy of economic restructuring, Comoros had begun a democratization process which had led to the adoption of a new constitution on 7 June. In a month, the Comorian people would elect representatives to a National Assembly through regional councils and island governors, he said, calling for the support of the international community.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Francophonie of Equatorial Guinea, Benjamin Mba Ekua Miko, pointing out that the least developed countries could not repay their foreign debt, recalled that the economic restructuring of his own country had been supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in particular, the World Bank

The economic and financial restrictions imposed on Equatorial Guinea by disparities in the world community had affected this country's ability to provide its citizens with clean drinking water, schools and other needed infrastructure, he went on. Yet the Government had recently been generously supported and assisted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and various non-governmental organizations.

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The Foreign Minister informed the Assembly that his Government had instituted a policy of general amnesty, allowing all Equatorial Guinea exiles to freely re-enter the country and resume all rights of citizenship. His Government would continue to facilitate their voluntary return, he said.

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"Prosecuting the guilty and exonerating the innocent was important to the reconciliation of the peoples in our country", Muhamed Sacirbey, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, told United Nations correspondents today. The statement came just two days after the Security Council authorized the establishment of a Commission of Experts to examine evidence of mass killings and humanitarian violations in the former Yugoslavia.

Reading from eyewitness testimonials, the Bosnian Ambassador described a number of gruesome abuses against civilians from what he said were reports prepared by non-governmental peace organizations. Punishing individuals who were guilty of war crimes would deter other similar crimes in the Bosnian Republic, he said, adding that refugees and concentration camp victims could be encouraged to return home "if they were certain that war criminals would be apprehended and brought to justice".

Ambassador Sacirbey also urged enforcement of the "no-fly zone" agreed to by all the parties at the London Conference, saying it had not yet been honoured. In view of the "reluctance of the western powers to bring in the troops to escort and deliver relief", Ambassador Sacirbey said he was calling on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), in conjunction with other countries, including Western Europe, to initiate deliveries of food to the people under resolution 770, (1992) adopted last August.

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The Security Council has agreed to a proposal by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that Spain and the United States be added to the list of Member States contributing military personnel to United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR). The two countries' troops would be part of the enlargement authorized by the Council in mid-September.

According to a United Nations official today, the expanded Force would be made up of four battalions of infantry from Canada, Spain and the United Kingdom. Other contributors would be Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal and Norway. General Morillon was still holding discussions with the leaders of the various parties in Bosnia on a number of issues such as security corridors and the site for the headquarters of the expanded Force. Advanced elements of the expanded force (small groups of 10 per country) were arriving in Belgrade this week, the official said.

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Norodom Sihanouk, the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, has expressed concern over press reports describing the situation in

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that country as "bad", causing delay in the implementation "in the field" of the Paris Agreements of last October. The comments were made in a letter to the Secretary-General, containing the text of Prince Sihanouk's statement to the 47th session of the General Assembly, which he is unable to attend.

In his letter, the Cambodian Head of State said that unfortunately, there had been a few violations of the cease-fire, acts of banditry and some cases of murder. In addition, the position adopted by one of the Cambodian factions was increasingly disturbing as was that faction's refusal to join the other factions in implementing the Agreements. But on the whole, peace throughout the Khmer land was no less real and there was no prospect of a return to war in Cambodia. For several months, there had been an unprecedented development of tourism and of the market economy, including an increase in the number of airlines linking Cambodia to the outside world.

With regard to Cambodian refugees in Thailand, the process of their returning was taking place smoothly, the statement said, and they were being reintegrated into the Cambodian society with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Foreign assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia was increasing and the number of embassies and other diplomatic posts in Cambodia was growing, Prince Sihanouk said.

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A deal between two European firms and a national of Somalia for the annual shipment of about half a million tonnes of hazardous waste to that country has been aborted, according to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mostafa K. Tolba.

The environmental body was able to quickly follow up with the Swiss Government after reports that one of its firms was involved in shipping hazardous wastes to Somalia and an investigative mission was sent to the war-torn country to confirm the reports. After conferring with Somali authorities and United Nations staff in Mogadishu, the mission reported that it did not find any conclusive evidence of actual hazardous waste dumping in the area.

Switzerland is a party to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, whereas Italy, the home of the second firm, and Somalia, are not.

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"The spirit of Rio already seems to be fading away and we should not allow it to happen". That view expressed by John Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, was heard in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) yesterday, as the Committee heard from 23 speakers in its continuing debate on the world economic situation.

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Mr. Pronk expressed disappointment at the reticence shown last month at the annual meeting of the World Bank. He criticized its "lukewarm agreement" to give "continuing consideration...to an earth increment for environmental purposes." That was not the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), he said.

Also yesterday, the Committee heard from Ambassador Jorge Montaño of Mexico, who urged the United Nations to launch a campaign to eradicate poverty. Eliminating poverty means not only assisting the most vulnerable population groups, he said, "but also laying the foundations for integrating them into production processes and enabling them to share the benefits of development".

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The General Assembly's Sixth Committee (Legal) this morning approved a draft resolution seeking broader adherence to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The two 1977 Protocols deal with the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

The draft, which was introduced by Sweden and approved without a vote, would also have the General Assembly call upon present and future parties to Protocol I to consider declaring that they recognize the competence of the International fact-finding Commission established in March of this year to investigate grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I. That Protocol protects victims of international armed conflicts; Protocol II deals with victims of internal conflicts.

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